United Nations A/54/291

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 September 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Dialogue among civilizations

Letter dated 31 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose, herewith, a report on the establishment of the Center for Dialogue Among Civilizations (CDAC) under the auspices of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see annex).

I will be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/54/150.

99-25209 (E) 240999

Annex

Report on the establishment of the Center for Dialogue Among Civilizations

Introduction

The International Center for Dialogue Among Civilizations (ICDAC) was officially set up on 9 December 1998, following the presidential order appointing Dr. M. J. Faridzadeh as the President of the Center. The ICDAC is mandated to engage in in-depth analysis of the concept of "Dialogue Among Civilizations"from philosophical, theological, scientific, literary and artistic perspectives, and also to coordinate the activities of various government agencies in this respect, in line with the efforts towards the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998.

Mandate and activities of the Center

- Policy making at national level with regard to Dialogue Among Civilizations;

- Theoretical consideration of Dialogue Among Civilizations and cultures with a view to applying it at national and international levels;

- Coordinating the activities of domestic agencies in respect of Dialogue Among Civilizations, taking into account the ideas expressed by the President;

- Orienting the external relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran as far as the concept of Dialogue Among Civilizations is concerned;

- Preparing the public opinion for taking part in Dialogue Among Civilizations.

General Objectives of the Center

- Propagating Dialogue Among Civilizations at international level as a progressive interpretation of the United Nations Charter and as a way leading to improvement of human life;

- Developing "The Culture of Dialogue" at national level;

- Propagating "Culture of Peace" with a view to furthering peaceful coexistence and helping to deter violations of the rights of the others;

- Making efforts towards creating and developing global civil society through cultural interaction among nations;

- Strengthening spiritual, moral and religious culture;

- Research on the definition of Dialogue Among Civilizations and its dissemination at home and abroad.

General activities and operational objectives of the Center

The Center will endeavor to fulfill its mandate and attain its objectives at national and international levels, with the assistance of the government agencies and through the following activities:

Policy making, planning and coordination

1. Proposing national policies and plans with regard to Dialogue Among Civilizations to the President and the Cabinet;

2. Determining the respective roles of various government agencies in fulfilling the policies and plans at national level; coordinating all activities concerning cultural dialogue with other countries and cultural regions;

3. Review and assessment of educational, research, political and cultural programmes of government agencies relating to Dialogue Among Civilizations with a view to adapting them to the supreme objectives of the concept of Dialogue Among Civilizations;

4. Evaluation of ideas and proposals with regard to Dialogue Among Civilizations;

International Relations

5. Expert analysis of the international policy/ activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding Dialogue Among Civilizations and formulation of effective projects with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

6. Cooperation with relevant international fora;

7. Holding international gatherings on cultural issues with a view to preparing the ground for and strengthening dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

Project implementation

8. Implementing cultural, scientific, national, political and international projects;

Research and criticism

9. Strengthening the scientific base of the concept of Dialogue Among Civilizations;

10. Critical evaluation of the impact of Dialogue Among Civilization at national and international levels;

Education and Information

11. Organizing extensive educational programmes with regard to the Dialogue Among Civilizations;

12. Directing and fulfilling information programmes in order to explain and propagate the policies and plans relating to Dialogue Among Civilizations;

13. Developing capacities for dialogue in the society, especially among the youth and women, and engaging them in Dialogue Among Civilizations and cultures relying on Islamic, cultural and historic heritage of Iran;

Organizational Development

14. Helping governmental agencies to upgrade their capabilities with a view to realizing the relevant plans and programmes;

15. Encouraging prominent thinkers in various scientific, social and political fields to take active part in Dialogue Among Civilizations;

16. Gathering and compiling relevant information and literature with regard to Dialogue Among Civilizations, and the dissemination of the Center's activities.